

## CLAIMS

1. A process for enhancing immune response and improving the overall health of a companion animal comprising the step of feeding said animal a diet containing an effective amount of lutein for a time sufficient for said lutein to be absorbed by said animal.
2. A process claimed in claim 1 in which said diet includes from about 1 to about 50 mg/day of lutein.
3. A process as claimed in claim 1 in which said diet includes from about 2 to about 315 mg lutein per kg of diet.
4. A process as claimed in claim 1 wherein said companion animal is a dog.
5. A process as claimed in claim 4 in which said diet includes from about 5 to about 20 mg/day of lutein.
6. A process as claimed in claim 1 wherein said companion animal is a cat.
7. A process as claimed in claim 6 in which said diet includes from about 5 to about 10 mg/day of lutein.
8. A process as claimed in claim 1 in which said diet comprises about 20 to 40% crude protein, about 4 to 30% fat, and about 4 to 20% total dietary fiber.
9. A process for increasing the lutein concentration in the circulating blood of a companion animal comprising the step of feeding said animal a diet containing an effective amount of lutein for a time sufficient for said lutein to be absorbed into the bloodstream of said animal.

Sub 22 cont/ 10. A process for increasing IgG concentrations in a companion animal comprising the step of feeding said animal a diet containing an effective amount of lutein for a time sufficient for said lutein to be absorbed into the bloodstream of said animal. *me t*

5 11. A process for increasing lymphocyte cells in a companion animal comprising the step of feeding said animal a diet containing an effective amount of lutein for a time sufficient for said lutein to be absorbed into the bloodstream of said animal. *me t*

Sub 22 cont/ 12. A supplement for enhancing immune response and improving the overall health of a companion animal comprising, on a dry matter basis, from about 0.001 to about 2% by weight lutein. *suppl*

10 13. The supplement as claimed in claim 12 wherein said companion animal is a dog. *me t*

Sub 22 cont/ 14. The supplement as claimed in claim 13 comprising from about 0.01% to about 1% by weight lutein.

15 15. The supplement as claimed in claim 12 wherein said companion animal is a cat. *pa*

15 16. The supplement as claimed in claim 15 comprising from about 0.01% to about 1% by weight lutein.